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**KAZAKHSTAN**

## PHOTO & CAPTION

# Treating TB and Saving Lives



**Two-year old Adil is one of more than 18,000 Kazakh children and adults whose lives were saved by improved tuberculosis treatment since 1998.**

Adil was only seven months old when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). When he was admitted to the Almaty Oblast TB Dispensary in December 2005, he weighed only 6 kg, and his family feared for the boy's life. Thanks to the new effective treatment strategy and high quality services provided by the doctor who was trained by USAID, this little boy has successfully recovered from the disease that, together with hepatitis, accounts for 5 percent of mortality in Kazakhstan.

Adil is one of more than 18,000 Kazakh lives that USAID has helped to save over the past eight years. Since 1998, USAID is assisting Kazakh Government to fight back this dangerous disease by supporting a nationwide introduction of a Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy, recommended by the World Health Organization. Centered on the government's commitment to secure sufficient funding for eradication of the disease, the DOTS strategy includes free medication, reliable diag-

nostics, and specialist supervision throughout the treatment course. USAID and its partner organizations have opened eight TB training centers to provide training on a continuous basis and have taught more than 5,000 Kazakh TB specialists, PHC doctors, laboratory specialists, and nurses to apply DOTS in the treatment of TB patients. Additionally, USAID supported creation of a national Electronic Surveillance Case-Based Management System to track TB cases. DOTS training and monitoring, together with a sufficient quantity of TB medicine purchased by the Government of Kazakhstan for free treatment of TB patients, has resulted in a 46.3% decrease in deaths from TB by 2005 (from 38.4 deaths per 100,000 in 1998 to 20.8).